

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for audibly identifying an event, the method comprising:  
enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of an entity related to the event and the first sound audibly identifying the entity;  
receiving a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and  
alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that ~~is related to the event~~ audibly identifies a group to which the entity belongs.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon a phone number of a caller, receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of a telephone call, and alerting an intended recipient of the telephone call comprises playing a ring tone including at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of receipt of an instant message.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving a notification of a change in an online presence state of the instant messaging sender.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an e-mail sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of receipt of an e-mail message.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the recipient.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is a user and enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the user[[sender]].

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the recipient.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is a user and alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the user[[sender]].

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by concatenating a portion of the first sound

with a portion of the second sound to form a concatenated sound and playing the concatenated sound.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by blending at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound to form a blended sound and playing the blended sound.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[[14]], wherein the entity is a user and the first ~~or second~~ sound is a spoken version of a user identity corresponding to the user.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24[[16]], wherein the ~~third~~first or second sound identifies the geographic location where the event occurred.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]]1, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a buddy group of the recipient.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]]1, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a contacts list of the recipient.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24[[16]], wherein the ~~third~~first or second sound identifies the urgency or importance of the event.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing at least a portion of the first sound, at least a portion of the second sound, and at least a portion of a third sound.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the ~~first sound is a sound chosen to identify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event.~~

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A computer system for audibly identifying an event, the computer system comprising:

- an event sound processor configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of a user related to the event and the first sound audibly identifying the entity;

- an event detection processor configured to receive a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

- an audio playback processor configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that ~~is related to the event~~ audibly identifies a group to which the entity belongs.

27. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon a phone number of a caller, to receive the notification by receiving

notification of a telephone call, and to alert an intended recipient of the telephone call by playing a ring tone including at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and to receive the notification by receiving notification of receipt of an instant message.

31. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and receive the notification by receiving a notification of a change in an online presence state of the instant messaging sender.

32. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an e-mail sender and receive the notification by receiving notification of receipt of an e-mail message.

33. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of the first sound by enabling selection of the first sound by the recipient.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the entity is a user and the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of the first sound by enabling selection of the first sound by the user[[sender]].

35. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the recipient.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the entity is a user and the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the user[[sender]]

37. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by concatenating a portion of the first sound with a portion of the second sound to form a concatenated sound and playing the concatenated sound.

38. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by blending at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound to form a blended sound and playing the blended sound.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 26[[39]], wherein the entity is a user and the first ~~or second~~ sound is a spoken version of a user identity corresponding to the user.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 49[[41]], wherein the ~~third~~first ~~or second~~ sound identifies the geographic location where the event occurred.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 26[[43]], wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a buddy group of the recipient.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 26[[43]], wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a contacts list of the recipient.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 49[[41]], wherein the third first or second sound identifies the urgency or importance of the event.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing at least a portion of the first sound, at least a portion of the second sound, and at least a portion of a third sound.

49. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 48, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to identify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for audibly identifying an event, the apparatus comprising:

means for enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of an entity user related to the event and the first sound audibly identifying the entity;

means for receiving a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

means for alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound ~~that is related to the event and that audibly identifies a group to which the entity belongs.~~

52. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is a user and the second sound identifies that the user is a member of a subgroup of a buddy group of the recipient.

53. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is a user and the second sound identifies an organization to which the user belongs.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the organization comprises one of an organization that employs the user and a social club.

55. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is a user and the second sound identifies a profession of the user.

56. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the entity is a user and the first sound is specified by the user.

57. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the first sound is specified by the recipient.

58. (New) A method for alerting a monitoring user of an online status change of a monitored user, the method comprising:



enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier of a monitored user, the first sound audibly identifying the monitored user;

receiving a notification of a change in online presence state of the monitored user, the notification including the identifier; and

alerting a monitoring user of the change in online presence state of the monitored user by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound, the second sound audibly informing the monitoring user of occurrence of a user online presence state change.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the monitoring user.

60. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the monitored user.

61. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein alerting a monitoring user of the change in online presence state of the monitored user comprises alerting the monitoring user by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the monitoring user.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the monitored user.

63. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein alerting a monitoring user of the change in online presence state of the monitored user comprises alerting the monitoring user by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the monitored user.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the monitoring user.

65. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein alerting a monitoring user of the change in online presence state of the monitored user comprises alerting the monitoring user by concatenating a portion of the first sound with a portion of the second sound to form a concatenated sound and playing the concatenated sound.

66. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein alerting a monitoring user of the change in online presence state of the monitored user comprises alerting the monitoring user by blending at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound to form a blended sound and playing the blended sound.

67. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the monitored user is included in a buddy list of the monitoring user, the buddy list including user identities selected by the monitoring user for online presence state monitoring.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein the online presence state change of the monitored user comprises the monitored user going from an offline state to an online state, and the second sound audibly informs the monitoring user of occurrence of a user transition from an offline state to an online state.

69. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein the online presence state change of the monitored user comprises the monitored user going from an online state to an offline state and the second sound audibly informs the monitoring user of occurrence of a user transition from an online state to an offline state.